

Statement of Significance

The Kimball-Tyler Barrel Company factory, located in Southeast Baltimore, is the oldest and only remaining independent barrel maker in the United States. At one time, barrels were this country's principle method of packaging and every large city boasted several cooperages. Since the turn of the century, however, new methods of packaging goods--combined with increasing government regulations against environmental pollution--have sharply curtailed the production of barrels.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Kimball-Tyler Barrel Company

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

261 S. Haven Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☒ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☒ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTYNAME SIN Enterprises
Suntory Limited, Maplegrove Wood Prod. Telephone #: 301-276-4888

STREET & NUMBER

261 S. Haven Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

___ VICINITY OF Maryland

STATE, zip code
21224**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: RHB-2990
Folio #: 426

STREET & NUMBER

Calvert & Fayette Streets

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

B-993

CONDITION☐ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☒ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The central portion of this complex dates to 1927 when a fire destroyed the earlier works. The building is a high one-story reinforced concrete structure with a flat roof and parapet wall. Industrial casement windows and brick fill in the bays. A two-story brick office building of approximately the same age is attached on the north, presenting a gable end to Macon Street.

A two-story stucco structure which now serves as the machine shop one building on the site which predates the fire. Another early structure is the set of brick kilns north of the main building which are used today to dry lumber for the barrels.

The interior of the main shop contains the entire contents of the former c. 1900 barrel works. The machinery is set up as an assembly line where workers each performed a single task on a workpiece which moved from station to station. Specialized machinery cut staves and shaped the barrels. This plant was one of the largest on the east coast.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Kimball-Tyler Barrel Company factory, located in Southeast Baltimore, is the oldest and only remaining independent barrel maker in the United States. At one time, barrels were this country's principle method of packaging and every large city boasted several cooperages. Since the turn of the century, however, new methods of packaging goods--combined with increasing government regulations against environmental pollution--have sharply curtailed the production of barrels.

Historical Significance

Shortly after the War of 1812, William Shaefer and his brother began a small barrel company on South Eutaw Street to supply the packaging needs for Baltimore's many independent sugar refineries. The company rapidly expanded and soon moved to a new site on Central Avenue near the canal. This location, near the city's lumberyards, provided a direct link to the harbor and greatly facilitated the transport of both raw lumber and finished barrels to the company's customers.

In 1834, Dr. Gordon Kimball Tyler bought a controlling interest in the shop and installed his nephew, Moses P. Kimball, as manager. The cooperage then became known as "Kimball-Shaefer and Company." After Shaefer's death in 1845 the name was again changed to "Kimball-Tyler Company" which it retains today.

When rail transportation from Baltimore opened the American West in the mid 1800's Moses Kimball and his partner, James E. Tyler, expanded their operation to include a sawmill and lumberyard in Harrisville, West Virginia. Here raw lumber was cut and dressed before being shipped by rail to Baltimore to be made into barrels.

Business expanded rapidly throughout the late 19th century despite the decline of Baltimore's sugar industry. To offset this decline, Kimball-Tyler began manufacturing a variety of barrels

cont'd

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

International Publishing Company
 Half century's progress of the city
 p. 179

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Linda Daur, Dennis Zembala

ORGANIZATION

Baltimore Industrial Museum

DATE

October 1980

STREET & NUMBER

217 N. Charles Street

TELEPHONE

301-396-1931

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21201

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

including those used by local distillers of Maryland rye whiskey. "Tight barrels" as these are known, or those which hold liquid as opposed to "slack barrels" which hold bulk items, became the principle product of the company.

Following the 1904 "Great Baltimore" fire, the Company moved to its present location at 261 South Haven Street. This location was especially advantageous since both the Baltimore and Ohio and Pennsylvania railroads had lines nearby. The Company later added spurs to the lines so that the tracks now ran directly into the factory. Vacant land east of Haven Street allowed the company to expand its furnaces used to char whiskey barrels. Charring is essential since it improves the flavor and aging process of the liquor. At the height of production, this barrel and keg shop manufactured approximately 2,500 barrels per day and supplied firms such as Coca-Cola & Red Sea Oil. In 1927, a large fire sparked by the steam engines used to operate the saws burned most of the central portion of the building. It was rebuilt shortly after.

Independent barrel makers suffered dramatically as packaging demands switched to paper and plastic during the 20th century. Lumber became expensive and few companies continued to use barrels to transport goods. Although Kimball-Tyler continued to operate as an independent cooperage, production greatly diminished. In 1975, rather than make the costly renovations dictated by the Environmental Protection Agency to control pollution resulting from the charring process, Kimball-Tyler ceased manufacture of complete barrels. The company now produces only the stays and headings for barrels and ships them unassembled to its customers. Approximately 65 men work at the shop.

In November of 1979, Suntory Limited, a Japanese firm, bought the Kimball-Tyler Company. Mr. Tyler, a descendant of the founder, acts as general manager and the firm retains its original name.

Kimberly-Tyler Barrel Company
Bibl. page 2

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Historical Publishing Co.
Industries of MD. p. 314

Englehart, Geo.
Baltimore City--The Book of its Board of Trade p. 154-155

1. SITE I.D. NO

B 9 9 3

NAER INVENTORY

U.S. Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION

MANUFACTURING

3. PRIORITY

4. DANGER OF DEMOLITION?
(SPECIFY THREAT)☐ YES ☒ NO ☐ UNKNOWN

5. DATE

6. GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT

OWNER

ADMIN

7. OWNER/ADMIN

Sin Enterprises Suntory Limited, Maple Grove Wood Prod.

8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

KIMBALL-TYLER BARREL COMPANY

9. OWNER'S ADDRESS

261 S. Haven Street

10. STATE COUNTY

M D

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG.
DIST.

3

STATE

M D

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG.
DIST.

3

11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO.)

261 S. Haven Street

12. EXISTING
SURVEYS☐ NR☐ NHL☐ HABS☐ HAER-I☐ HAER☐ NPS☐ CLS☐ CONF☐ STATE☐ COUNTY☐ LOCAL☐ OTHER

13. SPECIAL FEATURES (DESCRIBE BELOW)

☐ INTERIOR INTACT☐ EXTERIOR INTACT☐ ENVIRONS INTACT

14. UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

SIGN

SCALE

☒ 1:24☐ 1:62.5

QUAD

NAME Baltimore East

UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

SIGN

SCALE

☐ 1:24☐ 1:62.5

QUAD

NAME

15. CONDITION 70 ☐ EXCELLENT71 ☐ GOOD72 ☒ FAIR73 ☐ DETERIORATED74 ☐ RUINS75 ☐ UNEXPOSED76 ☒ ALTERED77 ☐ DESTROYED85 ☐ DEMOLISHED

16. INVENTORIED BY

Linda Daur, Dennis Zembala

AFFILIATION

Baltimore Industrial Museum

DATE

October 1980

17. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), HISTORICAL DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS,
MATERIALS, EXISTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

The Kimball-Tyler Barrel Company factory, located in Southeast Baltimore, is the oldest and only remaining independent barrel maker in the United States. At one time, barrels were this country's principal method of packaging and every large city boasted several cooperages. Since the turn of the century, however, new methods of packaging goods--combined with increased government regulations against environmental pollution--have sharply curtailed the business.

(CONT OVER)

18. ORIGINAL USE

Barrel factory

PRESENT USE

Barrel factory

ADAPTIVE USE

19. REFERENCES--HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER

Historical Publishing Company

Industries of Maryland p. 314

Englehart, Geo.

Baltimore City - The Book of Its Board of Trade p. 154-155

(CONT OVER)

20. URBAN AREA 50,000
POP. OR MORE?☒ YES ☐ NO

21.

22. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

☐ YES, LIMITED☐ YES, UNLIMITED☐ NO☐ UNKNOWN

23. EDITOR

INDEXER

24. LOCATED IN AN HIST DISTRICT?

☐ YES☒ NO

NAME

DISTRICT I.D. NO

B-993

Significance

REFERENCES (CONTINUED)

ABSTRACT		HAER NO		LC	TECH REPORT		HIST REPORT		CONTEMP PHOTO		HIST PHOTO		CONTEMP DRWG		HIST DRWG		COLOR PLATE		PHOTOGRAM		SW	FILM

B-993



KIMBALL-TYLER
BARRELL CO.
18365270 43 49760

KIMBALL-TYLER
BARRELL COMPANY
BALTIMORE MD
U.S.G.S. 7.5# BALTO. EAST QUAD
18365270 43 49760

B-993

PATAPSCO RIVER

(CURTIS BAY)
5662 II NE
SCALE 1:24,000

32°30'



KIMBALL TYLER BARRELL CO
BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND B-993
PHOTO, DENNIS ZEMBALA

Neg, Loc.: MD Historic Trust
Nov. 1980

West facade



KIMBALL TYLER BARRELL CO.
BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND B-993
PHOTO, DENNIS ZEMBALA

Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust
Nov. 1980

Office: West facade



KIMBALL TYLER BARRELL CO.
BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND B-993
PHOTO, DENNIS ZEMBALA

Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust
Nov. 1980

Storage building



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Kimball-Tyler Barrel Co.

Baltimore, MD

Photo: Dennis Zenbala

Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust

11/80 Machine Shop



B-993

Kimball-Tyler Barrel Co.

Baltimore, MD

Photo: Dennis Zembala

Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust

11/80 Lumber Storage shed



KIMBALL TYLER BARRELL CO.
BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND B-993
PHOTO, DENNIS ZENBALA

Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust
Nov. 1980

Stored Staves